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BRUÈRE, HENRY. *The New City Government*. Pp. xxii, 438. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912.

This book supplements admirably the series of works on commission government that have appeared recently. It is the first attempt to apply the accepted standards of administrative efficiency to the commission system. One of the greatest difficulties with which municipal reformers have had to deal has been the deep-rooted belief of the American people that administrative efficiency can be secured through mere changes in governmental organization. The most unfortunate effect of this belief has been that every change in the form of city government has been followed by widespread disappointment because of the failure to secure the expected results. It seems a matter of very great difficulty to convince the American people that good government cannot be secured by a mere revision of city charters. As Mr. Bruère aptly says: "Modern progressive standards of municipal efficiency cannot be attained merely by the processes supplied by the commission plan. They demand a new social sense to animate the work of officials and to guide the purposes of citizens who control them; they require a new technique of service to augment returns obtainable from public expenditure. In attaining these standards commission government has at present an advantage over those cities which still suffer from political control. But this advantage will be lost unless the new government immediately avails itself of its special opportunity to make city government a progressive and efficient instrument for promoting community welfare."

The work contains the results of a survey of ten commission cities. This survey was intended to provide a fact basis for judgment regarding the general character of commission government administration. The investigation was conducted with great thoroughness and the results show that while the commission system has certain very definite advantages over the other forms of municipal government prevailing in the United States, because of the greater concentration and more definite determination of responsibility, the administration of the commission governed cities has been successful in proportion as they have applied the most advanced standards of administrative efficiency to the conduct of municipal departments.

Mr. Bruère's book when read in connection with Bradford's book on Commission Government and the special volumes on Commission Government issued by the National Municipal League, and by the American Academy of Political and Social Science gives to students of municipal government as well as to administrators ample basis for a judgment on the desirability of extending the commission system.

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BRUÈRE, MARTHA B., and ROBERT W. *Increasing Home Efficiency*. Pp. 318. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

This is a book for all educators, clergymen, social workers and business men. It is primarily addressed to the middle class. Beginning with the first chapter, the problem of a much-needed adjustment to new conditions is clearly brought